

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. A domestic method of treating a liquid comprising water with a gas comprising ozone, the method comprising the steps of:
(a) providing the liquid in a treatment vessel;
(b) introducing the gas into the vessel to treat the liquid in the treatment vessel to obtain treated liquid;
(c) increasing the pressure in the treatment vessel; and
(d) utilizing the increased pressure in the treatment vessel to dispense the treated liquid from the treatment vessel through a carbon filter located downstream from the treatment vessel.

4 ~~5~~. The method as claimed in claim 1[4] further comprising the step of venting at least a portion of the gas from the treatment vessel during step (b) and passing at least a portion of the vented gas through the filter prior to dispensing water from the treatment vessel.

6 ~~7~~. The method as claimed in claim 1 [further comprising the step of introducing the gas into the treatment vessel as bubbles.]wherein a first quantity of liquid is treated in the treatment vessel and removed from the treatment vessel before another quantity of liquid is introduced into the treatment vessel whereby the method is performed as a batch process.

8 ~~9~~. The method as claimed in claim 1[8] further comprising the step of signalling a user if a predetermined level of treatment of the liquid is not achieved in the predetermined time whereby the user manually empties the treatment vessel.

9 ~~10~~. The method as claimed in claim 1[8] further comprising the step of [measuring the ozone concentration in the off gas and] receiving off gas which passes through the liquid in the treatment vessel in a head space in the treatment vessel, exposing at least a portion of the off gas to an ozone sensor and signalling a user if the concentration of ozone in the off gas is higher than a predetermined amount.

10 ~~11~~. The method as claimed in claim 1[8] further comprising the step of [measuring the ozone concentration in the off gas and] receiving off gas which passes through the liquid in the treatment vessel in a head space in the treatment vessel, exposing at least a portion of the off gas to an ozone sensor and signalling a user if the concentration of ozone in the off gas is lower than a predetermined amount.

- 11 ~~12~~. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of monitoring the treatment of the liquid and preventing the liquid from being dispensed from the treatment vessel if a predetermined level of treatment of the liquid is not achieved whereby the user manually empties the treatment vessel.

Please add new claims 26 - 38:

- 12 ~~26~~. The method as claimed in claim ~~11~~¹⁰ further comprising the step of passing the off gas through the filter to treat the filter prior to dispensing water from the treatment vessel.

- 13 ~~27~~. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of monitoring the treatment of the liquid and preventing the liquid from being dispensed from the treatment vessel if the concentration of ozone in the off gas is lower than a predetermined amount.

28. A batch method for treating water with ozone to obtain fit for water fit for human consumption comprising the steps of:

- (a) introducing a first quantity of water into a treatment vessel;
- (b) treating the quantity of water in the treatment vessel with ozone to obtain treated water;
- (c) increasing the pressure in the treatment vessel; and
- (d) removing the treated water from the treatment vessel prior to introducing another quantity of water into the treatment vessel wherein the increased pressure in the treatment vessel is used to remove the treated water from the treatment vessel through a filter located downstream from the pressure vessel if a predetermined level of treatment of the water is achieved

whereby water fit for human consumption is obtained.

29. The method as claimed in claim 28 further comprising the step of signalling a user if a predetermined level of treatment of the water is not achieved.

30. The method as claimed in claim 28 further comprising the step of preventing the water from being dispensed from the treatment vessel if a predetermined level of treatment of the water is not achieved.

31. The method as claimed in claim 28 further comprising the step of venting at least a portion of the gas from the treatment vessel during step (b) and passing the vented gas through the filter prior to dispensing water from the treatment vessel.

Sub. C3 cont. →
32. The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the pressure in the treatment vessel is increased by reducing the amount of gas which is vented from the treatment vessel.

33. The method as claimed in claim 29 further comprising the step of automatically dispensing the treated water when the pressure in the treatment vessel reaches a preset level.

34. A method for treating water with ozone to obtain fit for water fit for human consumption comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing water into a treatment vessel;

(b) treating the water in the treatment vessel with ozone to obtain treated water;

(c) increasing the pressure in the treatment vessel;

(d) signalling a user if a predetermined level of treatment of the water is not achieved; and

(e) utilizing the increased pressure in the treatment vessel to dispense treated water from the treatment vessel through a filter located downstream from the pressure vessel

whereby water fit for human consumption is obtained.

35. The method as claimed in claim 34 further comprising the step of preventing the water from being dispensed from the treatment vessel if a predetermined level of treatment of the water is not achieved.

Sub. C4 →
36. The method as claimed in claim 34 further comprising the step of venting at least a portion of the gas from the treatment vessel during step (b) and passing the vented gas through the filter prior to dispensing water from the treatment vessel.

37. The method as claimed in claim 34 wherein the pressure in the treatment vessel is increased by reducing the amount of gas which is vented from the treatment vessel.

38. The method as claimed in claim 34 further comprising the step of automatically dispensing the treated water when the pressure in the treatment vessel reaches a preset level.

Remarks

This letter is responsive to the Office Action dated November 19, 1999. This Response is accompanied by a request for a two month extension of time. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this Response is timely filed.

B